

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News



MAY 2022

Cover photo: © John Law



BEACON
TRINITY



Church Services – May 2022

Sunday, 1st May	10am	Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 8th May	10am	Communion	All Saints, Oakhill
Sunday, 15th May	10am	Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 22nd May	10am 4pm	Communion 4th @ 4	Holy Trinity, Binegar Ashwick Church Rooms Art & Faith
Sunday, 29th May	10am	Rogation Walk	Ashwick start

OAKHILL VILLAGE FESTIVAL SATURDAY 16TH JULY

Beacon Trinity Parish, Oakhill Church School, Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall are planning a great day.

Fun dog show: Happy Landings are running a variety of fun classes throughout the afternoon, details next in June edition, rosettes and prizes, all dogs welcome.

3 Bands already booked. All the usual sideshows and stalls. For information about booking a stall (£15) e-mail:

di.marshall@beacontrinity.church or magazine@beacontrinity.church

More details next month.

If you would like to help please email:

vicar@beacontrinity.church We are also

looking for sponsorship to cover some of the main expenses so that everything raised on the day can go to our three groups.





View from the Hill

May Day was the ancient beginning of Summer and today more traditionally it is a

spring celebration. Traditional images are of children dancing round a May Pole and Morris dancers at village fayres. In the UK it seems that 'Spring bank holiday' is more the focus of community celebrations as this usually coincides with a school holiday. Spring bank holiday used to be known as Whitsun which is a name for Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is the commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples after Jesus rose from the dead.

Some think 'Whit' comes from 'white' as it was a day people were baptised dressed in white clothes. Another meaning goes back to a Saxon word 'wit' meaning wisdom, as at Pentecost the disciples were endowed with the Holy Spirit giving them wisdom and understanding.

In recent years the Spring bank holiday has been the last Monday in May meaning it is not directly linked to the Christian festival of Pentecost.

This year we are moving the bank holiday to Friday 3rd June on an extended weekend to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. It seems fitting to me that due to this we will be celebrating on Pentecost (Whit) Sunday, 5th June once again as Queen Elizabeth has such a strong faith in Jesus.

As we celebrate, I am aware that many in the world are struggling and suffering. This doesn't mean we should not celebrate ourselves, but we should remember at the same time.

I am delighted that hospitality has been offered to refugees by people in our communities and I hope that those who join our community from Ukraine will feel welcome to join in our celebrations if they wish, knowing that we also hope and pray for an end to the suffering and war in their country.



Please visit www.beacontrinity.church or:

Find us on 
facebook.com/beacontrinity

Follow us on Instagram! 
instagram.com/beacontrinity

Community corner



A Warm Welcome

from our community to all our Ukrainian visitors. We hope your time with us will enable you to make happy memories and new friends.

Congratulations

To Justin Sargent who received his OBE medal in March for services to the community in Somerset. Justin, the Chief Executive of Somerset Community Foundation since 2005, was awarded the honour in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Thank You

To Emma Dakin's dad for laying hardcore down the footpath from the Rec to the A367. The surface was slippery and muddy, causing problems for pedestrians of all ages.

Lent Lunches:

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Beacon Trinity Lent Lunches. The fantastic amount of £616.30 was donated, providing much needed funds for our three churches. And the soups were fantastic!!

Wells Festival of Literature 30th anniversary - 14-22 October 2022:

The Festival is preparing to celebrate its 30th anniversary this year with a bumper line-up of celebrity speakers and authors. It runs from 14-22 October and was launched in April with its popular international poetry and story competitions. Calling poets and wordsmiths worldwide - it's time to get rhyming and writing as entries are welcomed for the Open Poetry Competition that is part of the 2022 Festival. For full

details of the rules of each of the categories and how to enter go www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk and click on the competitions section. For details of this year's Festival, information on becoming a friend or sponsor, or to enter any of the competitions, visit www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk

Local clubs

Oakhill and Ashwick Local History Group:

Our May meeting is a Quiz and Social Evening (Wine and Nibbles, Tea or Coffee if you prefer), incorporating the AGM. So come and enjoy - all welcome. Wednesday, May 18th, 7.30pm, Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall.

East Mendip Gardening Club

Will meet on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm in the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall, when Derek Dexter will give a demonstration and slide show about 'Fuchsias my way'.

Further details from:

markamanley81@googlemail.com

Paul Hartley's New Venture:

From May 20th he will open on Fridays from 5pm - 7pm for great British Fish and Chips take-away! Pre-orders by telephone only - 01749 841718.

Cyber Aware from the National Cyber Security Centre

Make today the day you secure your email account: set a strong, separate password using 3 random words. Cyber criminals are targeting emails more than ever. Are you protected?

Find out more about creating strong passwords: cyberaware.gov.uk

This month's cover...

This month's cover photograph of a bee collecting nectar, taken by John Law. Please send photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church

Thank you.

Betty Howell



Betty Howell, a much-loved, long time resident of Gurney Slade, died on the 1st April 2022 aged 88 in South Cary House, Castle Carey.

From Betty's friend and fellow worshipper: Margaret Perkins:

Betty was a caring, hard working, independent, thoughtful lady. A compassionate friend to so many. She was a loyal supporter of many worthy charities, in particular working as a weekly volunteer in the MSN Barnardo's shop. She also organised the weekly Friday coach shopping trip from Gurney Slade to Shepton Mallet. Her dedication over many years to her much-loved St James Church was admirable and her warm welcome to everyone who attended was always so sincere.

During her younger years she delivered daily supplies of fresh milk from their farm in Benter, driving her father's van in all kinds of weather, to customers in the Stockhill Road area of Chilcompton. Without plastic containers or glass bottles, milk was transported in a smaller metal churn with a carrying handle to customers' doorsteps where the required quantity was dipped out using a cylindrical metal standardised measuring container with long handle, into the customers' own jugs. We often shared humorous stories about the individual characters she met during that time. Dear Betty will be missed greatly by all who knew her. RIP Betty.

From Betty's cousin: Val Rich (nee Howell):

Cousin Betty was a welcome visitor to our Mother over the years. All of us knew of her great love of nursing, her family and the Church. The family admired her willingness to help so many in her village, and beyond, even when she was not in the best of health. My sister and I enjoyed our visits to her bungalow sharing coffee, home-made cakes and news of our families. Her fierce independence was something we all admired. Thank you, Betty.

From Caroline Stevens – Churchwarden at St James, Ashwick and friend of Betty:

Betty was known to many of us for her wonderful human qualities and simple way of helping people. She was an incredible lady always willing to lend a hand at events; she made wonderful cakes, especially her famous fruit cake!

Betty willingly helped anyone who needed a lift in her little car to go shopping or to village events. A true Christian she loved her church, St James; she was always cleaning it, she was on the flower rota when needed and was the caretaker of Ashwick Church Rooms.

Before retirement, Betty was a staff nurse and worked at St Martins Hospital, Bath and later at Shepton Mallet Community Hospital, again always caring for someone – an incredibly loving, caring lady with many friends.

Betty's funeral is on Tuesday, 3rd May at 12.30pm in St James Church, Ashwick.



Beacon Bonfire Masbury Ring



Thursday 2 June

Celebrate the start of the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee Weekend

Come along with Family & Friends

Bring a Picnic

Enjoy the sun setting

Celebrate the lighting of our

Community Beacon Bonfire

Gates Open from 7.30pm

Beacon Bonfire lighting 9.45pm

Gates Close 11.30pm

To book your car parking space call or text

Steve on 07528 169533

You are welcome to walk and routes will be marked



Jubilee Dance Party

Saturday 4 June
7.00pm to Late

Oakhill Village Hall

"The Terry Hill Band"

Hog Roast & Burgers

Disco

Cash Bar

£10.00 per ticket

To include entry, Food & One Drink

To book a ticket Text or call Andy North on 07853 112241

*LIVE
MUSIC*





Binegar & Gurney Slade Family Fun Day



Sunday 5 June
Midday 'til 5pm

Join us to Celebrate the Queen's Jubilee
Memorial Hall and Park



Bring a Picnic

Live Music with
The Harlem Rhythm Cats

Jubilee Fancy Dress

Fun & Games

For more information
Contact Debbie - 07890 422217



PLATINUM PICNIC PARTY

Malory
Towers

Sunday 5th June
from 12 noon

Enid Blyton

Oakhill Recreation Ground

Bust out the hard boiled eggs and
lashings of ginger beer for a classic
Enid Blyton style 1950s
Bring and Share Picnic
in the park



What will you bring?

What are the Famous Five eating these days!

Get ready for an afternoon of fun and games
and don't forget your
Sunday Best Hat for Photos



Special VIP places with indoor seats
and afternoon tea for the over seventies

Quiz

For more information contact:

Sue Trott - 01749 704440

or

after 15 May - Anne Ralls - 01749 840131



May Message

*Brian Castle,
Honorary Assistant Bishop
for Bath and Wells*



Life in abundance

It all happened so quickly. I went to A&E with severe back-pain which affected my mobility. The NHS was outstanding. Within a dizzying few hours, I heard I would need an immediate MRI scan and possibly rods to support my spine. I dreaded the thought of going into the scanner, let alone the surgery. As I was being wheeled along the corridor, Lauren, my Godson's 10-year-old daughter, came into my mind.

Lauren is a talented girl passionate about football. Just over a year ago, it was discovered that she had a growth at the base of the spine which would need radical treatment to prevent spinal curvature. She would also require rods in her back which could be regularly extended by surgery as she grew into adulthood. In addition, this ten-year-old would be spending lonely hours in a soul-less scanner. Lauren is lovingly supported by her wonderful family and magnificently treated by NHS professionals, but while it can be shared, the load is ultimately hers to carry. Parents bear the agony of powerlessness. In the middle of this painful dilemma, young Lauren is instinctively grabbing the God-given gift of abundant life which is for all and which lies at the heart of the Gospel. As we get older, less passionate and more cynical we can lose faith in this gift.

As I was being taken to the radiology department, I realised that I was being strengthened and inspired by this young girl, six decades my junior, facing far greater challenges than me. My own fears were being transformed by Jesus Christ's gift of life mediated through Lauren's courage. Life may turn out differently from what we expect, but that does not restrict its abundance.

The young are an inspiration. It is the role of the older generation to ensure they can grow into the special people God has created them to be so that they can release the gifts they have for us all.

Thanks, Lauren.

Despite all she faces, Lauren continues to play football.

Brian





Oakhill Church School & Nursery

Oakhill Church School were delighted to welcome Christians together in Shepton Mallet and Shepton Community Bookshop to a special Collective Worship on Monday 28th March where the school was presented with 30 Good News Bibles. Mrs Clements, the Headteacher, said that the bibles will be an invaluable resource for RE lessons as the children will be able to read directly from the text. This is a great example of the local community working with the school to provide the best outcomes for the children.

Are you a business owner who could support our school in some way? if so, we would love to hear from you at:

enquiries@oakhill.bwmat.org

We are also looking for volunteers who will support children with their reading. Full training will be given and will be subject to DBS clearance. Please contact the school office for further details:

enquiries@oakhill.bwmat.org



School Governors Required



The Local Governing Committee at Oakhill Church School is passionate about their role in building and supporting our wonderful school and championing the school vision of a community of learning, celebration and empowerment.

This is a hugely rewarding and fulfilling role for those who want to enable Oakhill's children to meet their full potential. Oakhill Governors are a committed group of individuals working together in collaboration with the school.

As there is a comprehensive governor induction process, no specific skills or experience are necessary. This is a volunteer position with a commitment of about 5 hours per month.

For more information about becoming an Oakhill Governor, please email the Clerk to Governors: vanessa.locke@bwmat.org

For more information on the school and the work we do, please visit: <https://www.oakhillchurchschool.co.uk/>

Tales of old

In 1684, John Cannon was born at Grange Farm, West Lydford. It is still there. He wrote a *Chronicle*, of his life that shines a light on Somerset rural life. Beware: it is earthy and you will blush.

He is remarkable because he was self-taught. His parents refused to pay for an education. They thought “me proper for their rural employments, such as keeping sheep, driving plow and other husbandry affairs according to their direction.” He never forgave them. An insatiable appetite for books was his education.

In 1702, at age 18, his parents let John visit Binegar Fair. He was used to markets; he sold corn at Bruton. A fair, though, was something else.

Let me set the scene. Fairs were vital for the buying and selling of livestock, produce and consumer goods. Fairs attracted rich and poor. Socially, fairs were places of courtship, entertainment and leisure with family and friends. They were a ready network for showing new, exotic entertainments at provincial locations. Fairs, though, could risk your reputation or livelihood. There was theft, brawling, drunkenness, gambling, violence and licentious behaviour. It was an irresistibly heady mix, a sore temptation for a young man.

Gambling was a top vice of the youth of the time. John was no exception. An “idle exercise I & my brother was addicted to was when at work together in the barn to make out corn for the market, we should instead of following our labours, get to cards, being never without a pack in his or my pocket.”

With gambling – playing games of chance for money – came cardsharps, who won by cheating. From the Reformation on, there were books on how to play cards and dice, and how to cheat at them. Most usually, several confederates used sleight of hand to complete the sting on a *cony* as they called their dupe.

If Cannon was a *cony* and fleeced at Binegar Fair, he kept visiting them. In 1704, he took a girl he was courting to Babcary and “passed the night in good entertainment and civill mirth”. In 1707, at Castle Cary, a sergeant gave him a guinea. Innocently, he had “taken the Queen’s money” and become an army conscript. He put up a fight, got arrested but happily, as he was employed, the local magistrate freed him.

Richard Higgins

Grenville's Ramblin's...

The recent appalling news of the violent assault by Russian armed forces on the neighbouring country of Ukraine has caused a great deal of concern, especially in adjacent countries. I'm sure that the news that on one occasion Russian missiles landed quite close to the border of Poland, reminded some of us of the behaviour of a similar dictator to Putin, who was responsible for the onset of WWII. How, on both occasions the instigators of the subsequent violent assaults had promised that they had no intention of causing a war. On the first occasion it was Hitler's massive armed forces that smashed their way across Poland, one of our allies; before treating much of Europe in the same way, whilst Putin's armed forces appear to be just as brutal.

So it is, having briefly mentioned these two violent events, it brings to mind the fact that we never have to look very far or very hard to find bad news and for some reason bad news often tends to get more publicity.

However, having rambled on about the popularity or otherwise of bad news, I must say that I was agreeably surprised recently by some good news reports in the media. In fact as far as those involved were concerned, namely Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, and for her husband and little daughter, it was absolutely Wonderful News! I suppose most of us are very aware of, what has been a long ongoing story of how following a visit to see relatives in Iran with her baby daughter in 2016, Nazanin was arrested at the airport on her way back to her home in this country, on what she has constantly claimed to be, trumped up charges of spying against the Iranian state.

Over the last six years she has apparently faced all manner of charges, as well as suffering long spells of what seems to have been vile forms of imprisonment.

Fortunately her husband Richard was able to fulfil her appeal for him to fetch the little girl back home to live with him in this country, where he has spent the last 6 years looking after her, as well as going on hunger strikes, and constantly agitating the powers that be, to get his wife free, to get something done.

So it was, on that day towards the end of March it was obvious that something had at last been done! A special aeroplane landed at Brize Norton air field with several people who had been freed by the Iranian regime. When a little girl who hadn't seen her mother for some three years, was we hear, able to run, crying 'IS THAT MY MUMMY' into her mother's arms; bearing out the good news that the Ratcliffe family were together once again!



Grenville Reakes

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

Why 'Little London'?

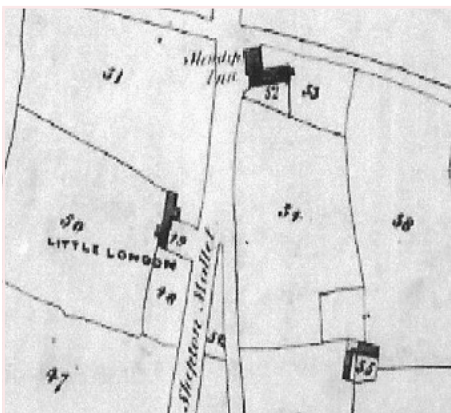
One of our big mysteries is why the western part of the village of Oakhill is known as 'Little London'. The name has gathered quite a lot of interest from researchers nation-wide. While most English place names are either unique or occur in very small numbers, there are apparently over 120 'Little Londons' across the land! There must be some reason for this.

There are various theories. A popular one has been that the inhabitants were refugees from London's plague. But historian John Broad says the name goes back further: some Little Londons are recorded before 1400. Through trawling the records, he has found that most sprang up at times of rapid population expansion, so the name was given to a place expanding very rapidly. Another theory is that they were squatter settlements, set up on commons or waste lands where people lived in squalid circumstances, as in London slums. Broad also notes that the majority of Little Londons appeared at the periphery of villages, close to borders, and with easy access to commons or waste land, away from what he

calls the 'prying eyes' of parish or manorial control (suggesting, perhaps, some dodgy dealings?). As an aside, it is said that in previous centuries, if a man could put up a house on waste land, starting at daybreak and having a roof over and a fire in the grate by sunset, then he had the right to stay on the land. This right is much disputed (perhaps a rural folk tale), and it doesn't, of course, explain the name.

In our case, the earliest record we have of the name is from 1705, when a certain John Stoake of Little London in Ashwick was found guilty of sheep stealing (punishable by death at the time). There are then a handful of Little London records in the parish from the mid-1700's and beyond. But in those days, according to the maps, the position of this hamlet was west of today's A37, between Batts Farm and the Mendip Inn (see the Ashwick parish map shown here). In those days a farmhouse between these two points was known as 'Little London Farm'. We do not know whether the name came from the farm or vice versa. The rest of the hamlet included a number of small cottages (marked on an early Shepton parish map, just off the map shown here) on the lane leading from near the end of the High St up to Batt's Farm on today's A37.

There is no record of Little London being in its present location until the mid-1800's. As it happens, in 1763, relatively soon after the first records of our Little London, Lord Fortescue (who owned most of the land in Ashwick parish) enclosed the common land called 'Ashwick Down', which included the land then known as Little London plus some of that nearer to the centre of the village. The enclosure meant that it was no longer available for commoners for its traditional use as grazing and as a source of fuel. By the end of the 1800's the little cottages referred to had gone, and Little London Farm had burnt down,



Detail from Ashwick Parish Tithe Map 1841

Showing Little London Farmhouse west of the A37 (vertical) and the road leading into Oakhill village at the bottom of the map

with no trace of it today. The fields on the west side of the A37 are now just that – fields, no buildings. So, with almost nothing left in its old location did the name just slide eastwards?

Yet another theory about the name seems to be favoured in Wales: a website called 'Llundainfach' claims that it had to do with droving – moving animals to market along the nation-wide network of drove roads (sadly this interesting website has recently disappeared). The animals would be on the road for many days, even weeks, moving from their place of origin to a central market, for example from Wales to London. They would need short term grazing; as the numbers of animals increased the drovers used multiple routes to avoid competition. The drovers themselves would need accommodation and sustenance, meaning some permanent structures would

spring up. This may well be a partial explanation, but cannot be the whole story, for not all Little Londons are on or near possible droving routes – ours wasn't on an obvious one. The link could well be with commerce. Broad says that books of the 1500's and 1600's suggest the name Little London was often used to signify a busy commercial centre. There may be a connection with drovers, many of whom were known to act as peddlers and engage in trade as they travelled. Some of them had a decidedly shady reputation, as did some Little Londons. If that area of Oakhill was ever a trading area – whether for legal or illegal dealings – there is certainly no evidence of it now.

So many theories, some at best a little more convincing than others. Take your pick.

Lin Thorley



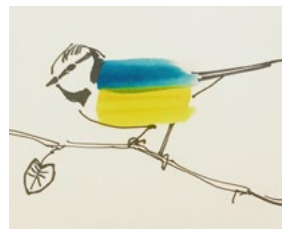
Hi, we are a small group of local residents who, so far, have applied for around 30 visas under the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Oakhill and the surrounding area. We have already welcomed our first family into Oakhill, who are staying with myself and our family.

Many people have asked if they can donate or support our Ukrainian peers so we have decided to set up this "gofundme page". We have provided for most of their immediate needs, however, we are very aware that as more families arrive, especially with children, there will be things we have not considered. Most of our counterparts are eager to find work and we would like to support them in doing this and becoming independent members of our local community.

Things that your money will contribute towards..... bedding, clothing, technology to enable them to remain in contact with families left behind in Ukraine, bus passes, therapeutic activities such as horse riding, school uniforms and equipment the list is endless and we will always report back with how your money has been utilised.

We have been overwhelmed by the amount of people who have offered help and support and hope that this provides an easy and simple way for you to do this. I know that our Ukrainian families are overwhelmed by the love and kindness they have received in the UK, and in particular our local community. Many Thanks
Vicki Bridges

This is the link to our "gofundme page" named "Oakhill supports Ukraine": <https://gofund.me/fef0784c>





Ashwick Parish Update

April 2022 – David Barlow & Kate Egan
(ashwickparish@hotmail.co.uk)

Council Elections

Nominations to join Ashwick Parish Council had to be submitted by Tuesday 5th April for a Council of 11 representatives. Seven valid papers were submitted and consequently we had an uncontested election. The following parishioners have therefore been elected to serve:

David Barlow
Sarah Emery
Bryan Wells

Phil Briscoe
David Hine

Jessica Elliott
David Thorley

Our meeting in April was the final session of the old Council. Items on the agenda included the following planning applications:

2022/0307/TPO M329 - Tree A: Ash - Fell Tree B: Ash Dieback - Fell Coombe End, Binegar Lane Gurney Slade. Council recommended leaving the decision to the Tree Officer.

2022/0432/HSE - New vehicular access with associated parking and turning, 20 Kingscombe Gurney Slade.

2022/0523/TCA T1 - Silver Birch crown lift to 3.5 metres. T2 - English Oak - Crown lift to 3.5 metres, T3 Beech - Crown lift to 3.5 metres, crown reduction to 4 metres - Pondsmead Surgery. Recommended to leave decision to Tree Officer.

2022/0593/Ful - Erection of stable block, stone and creation of track from existing access at 364759 148159 Nettlebridge Hill Bath Road Oakhill. New Premises Licence Application for a premises licence for Mendip Golf Club, Golf Links Lane Ashwick

The next monthly Council meeting will be held on Wednesday May 11 at 7.00pm.
This meeting includes:

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting gives parishioners the opportunity to come along to meet Councillors and hear what the Council has been doing during the year. This is also an opportunity to raise any issues you would like the Council to look at over the coming year. Everyone Welcome.



Hopefully, by the time you read this, the rejuvenation work at the village hall will be well underway, and the former garage, storeroom, and changing room in the process of being converted into a fantastic kitchen and café space. Work was slightly delayed, due to sickness, but we hope that good progress will be made over the coming weeks and the core building work will be completed and the kitchen design and fitting can then commence. We look forward to showcasing the new space later in the year.



Work is also about to start on the repairs required to the children's play area, ahead of our upcoming ROSPA inspection. The steps to the slide, the posts on the 'adult' swing and the 'child' swing are being repaired and the second child seat repaired and returned to use. This is alongside a general clean up and maintenance across the playground. You will notice areas of the play equipment taped off during this period. Please don't allow your children to use any of the equipment if it is taped off, and bear with us while we complete these essential repairs.

An easy way for you to consider supporting us, as we continue with these essential works, is to make "Ashwick Village Hall and Recreation Ground" your Amazon Smile Charity beneficiary. At no extra cost to yourself, the Village Hall will then receive a donation every time you make a qualifying Amazon Smile order. For further information please see our Facebook or Instagram pages or email us at aandovillagehall@gmail.com.



If you are interested in hearing more about what we have been up to over the last 12 months and our plans for the next year, we would love to see you at our **AGM on Tuesday 10th May at 7pm** at the Village Hall. You don't have to be interested in becoming a committee member to attend, and there will be drinks and nibbles afterwards to tempt you. We would love to see you there!

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to support our Easter Event last month which raised a splendid £366.37 towards our fund-raising target of £80,000. It was lovely to see so many people, and we hope that the children had a fantastic time and enjoyed lots of chocolate over the Easter holidays!

Kim Hare, Vice Chair - Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



Binegar and Gurney Slade Parish Council News



The Parish Council is in contact with a number of agencies who are helping to support families that are taking in refugees and refugees who have arrived in the area. If you need support, please get in touch and we will do our best to signpost you to the right contacts.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Plans for the Jubilee Celebrations are well in hand. Look out for the promotional posters and put the dates into your diary.

- Thursday 2nd June – Beacon lighting (bring a picnic) on Masbury Hill
- Saturday 4th June – Evening Party at Oakhill Village Hall
- Sunday 5th June – Family Picnic at Binegar Memorial Hall and Playing Field.



If you would like to be involved or have any suggestions, please do get in touch.

Somerset Bus Partnership

Somerset Bus Partnership has over 120 representatives in parishes and towns across Somerset. They are looking for a representative from Binegar and Gurney Slade; ideally a member of the public who is a bus user. Please let us know if you would be interested in representing our villages.

Footpath Warden

Do you like getting out into the countryside and enjoy walking? The Parish Council, in partnership with Somerset's Rights of Way Team, are seeking a Parish Path Liaison Officer. For further information please contact the Clerk.



Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 10 May at 7:00pm.

Diane Abbott Parish Clerk: binegarpc@hotmail.co.uk
www.binegar-pc.org.uk

Your councillors - Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, John Bridges, Cath Law, Phill Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone

Easy Coronation Chicken

(by Joanna Simpson)

Ingredients:

- 2-3 tsp mild curry powder, to taste
- ½ tspn ground cinnamon
- 2 tbsp mango chutney
- 1-3 tbsp sultanas, to taste, or 2 chopped apricot halves
- 500g shredded cooked chicken
- 6 tbspn mayonnaise or Crème Fraiche



Method:

- 1) Mix the mayo, curry powder, cinnamon, chutney and sultanas/apricots together and season with black pepper.
- 2) Add the shredded chicken and stir to coat in the sauce. Stir in 2 tbsp water to loosen if needed, then season and serve as desired.

Preparation time:
5 mins

Serves:
4-6

Classic Coronation Chicken can be served with jacket potatoes or in sandwiches and salads. It's an excellent way to use up leftover chicken, after a roast. Why not make some and enjoy at one of our villages' Jubilee Picnics in June!

The Queen met a woman who helped perfect Coronation Chicken, the dish forever associated with the start of her reign, as she began celebrations of her 70 years on the throne. On the eve of the Monarch reaching her Platinum Jubilee milestone, she spoke with Angela Wood who, as a 19-year-old, spent days cooking versions of the dish first known as '**Poulet Reine Elizabeth**' for its creators as they worked on the Coronation menu. Ms Wood was tasked by royal florist and cookery doyenne Constance Spry and Cordon Bleu chef Rosemary Hume to help perfect the dish for the crowning of the Queen in June 1953.



The May Garden

EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB – JANE EVANS



May has arrived with, hopefully, warmer and longer days and it's time tidy up spring planting, plant for summer and plan for autumn!

Once spring bulbs are over, resist the temptation to cut back the foliage but leave to die on its own and add liquid fertiliser round the clumps. The result will be an even better display next spring.

Start planting out summer bedding plants towards the end of the month if all risk of frost is over.

Water early and late to get the most out of your water and start collecting and recycling water wherever possible.

Continue dividing herbaceous border perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.

Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth.

Trim back spreading plants such as aubretia, Alyssum and Candytuft after they've flowered, to encourage fresh growth and new blooms.

Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as fuchsia and pelargoniums. New shoots of hardy perennials can also be used as cuttings.

Take softwood cuttings of shrubby herbs such as sage and lemon verbena.

Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering.

Prune out overcrowded and dead stems of early flowering clematis after flowering.

Tie in rambling climbing roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.

Top-dress permanent pot plants to refresh the compost.

Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs whilst still in the green.

Harden off outdoor tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins for planting early next month.

Pinch out growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly.

Keep on top of weeding - weeds will compete for precious water, light and nutrients.

Protect strawberry plants with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit)

Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems.

Hang pheromone traps in stone fruit trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruit-moth activity and in apple trees to reduce codling moth.

Keep young fruit trees well watered while they put on rapid growth.

Remove blossoms and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year.

Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars - they will quickly skeletonise leaves.

Feed the lawn with high-nitrogen fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth.

Delay mowing newly grown grass until it's 3 inches, 8cm. in height and ensure the mower blades are on high setting. Never allow new lawns to dry out.

Remove duckweed and blanket weed from ponds, and thin out pondside perennials (if necessary) and submerged oxygenating pond plants. Leave any removed weed beside your pond overnight to allow pond life to escape back into the pond.

Hang fly traps in the greenhouse to monitor levels of whitefly, thrips and other pests.

Start to sow biennials like foxglove, dianthus and wallflowers in seed trays, for flowering next year.

Direct sow poppy seeds, cornflowers and scabious to attract bees and butterflies.

Try sowing comfrey seeds in a neglected corner of the garden, it can be used to make fertiliser or for mulching and is a rich source of nutrients.

Sow spring onion seeds in drills outdoor for a quick crop to flavour salads and stir-fries.

Try Swiss chard sown outdoors for a colourful crop - it even looks good in flower beds!

Sow chive, coriander, dill and parsley seeds directly in the ground or into containers.

Take time out from all your hard work to relax and enjoy the garden now that the warmer weather has arrived.



Taken from Thompson & Morgan's "What to do in the Garden this month"
www.thompson-morgan.com/in-the-garden-this-month

WEATHER REPORT: MARCH 2022

From Roemead Farm.
Written by
Gerald Esain.

March was a month of two halves, unsettled with some rain the first half of the month. Total rainfall 69mm, around average for this site. The second half had many sunny days. Temperatures were a little above average. Highest reading 18.2°C on the 24th. Lowest 1.1°C on the 20th.

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Mat Based Pilates 10:00 - 11:00 am	SCC 9:30 - 10:15 am	Barre & Pilates 10:00 - 11:00 am	SCC 9:30 - 10:15 am				
							
SCC 18:15 - 19:00	Aerial Yoga 18:00 - 19:00	Pilates 18:15 - 19:15	Build & Burn 18:15-19:00				
Pilates 19:15 - 20:15	Box Fit 19:15 - 20:00	SCC 19:30-20:15	Core Strength & Stretch 19:30-20:15				



Private Fostering

Is your child living with another family?

Have you been looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more?

Do you know a child that's being looked after outside their close family?

If so, the child may be living in a private fostering arrangement.

The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements. This is so we can make sure the children are well looked after and to give support to their carers.



Call Somerset Direct: 0300 123 2224
or email: childrens@somerset.gov.uk

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old - or under 18 if they have a disability - lives with someone for 28 days or more who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. A close relative would be a parent, step-parent, aunt, uncle or grandparent.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. They might be a friend of the child's family. They could be someone who is willing to look after a child they do not know, for example if that child is on an exchange trip or have parents who live overseas.

If Children's Social Care has made the arrangement, or the person who is caring for the child is and approved foster carer, this is not private fostering.

What to do if you know of a private fostering arrangement

The law says you must tell Children's Social Care if you know about any private fostering arrangements.

If you think you are privately fostering a child or know about a child who is being privately fostered, then don't worry, it is allowed. But you do need to tell us - we have a legal duty to ensure that all children who are privately fostered are cared for in a safe and suitable environment.

To report a private fostering arrangement, please call our Contact Centre in confidence on 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

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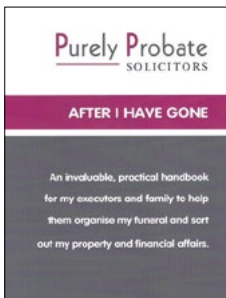
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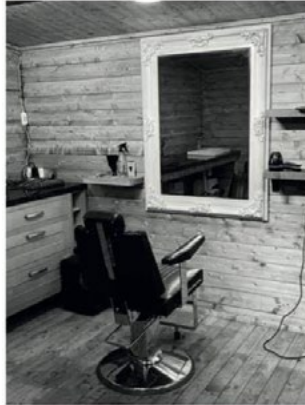
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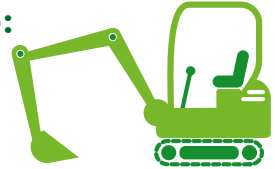
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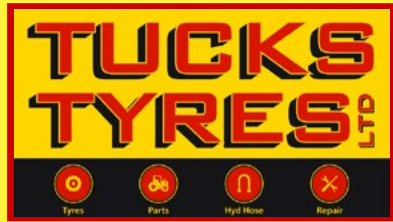
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